

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 09462 142006Z

64

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DOTE-00 AID-20

NIC-01 EUR-25 RSR-01 /147 W
----- 086126

R 141430Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6177

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 9462

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, IN

SUBJECT: LOCOMEN'S STRIKE

REF: NEW DELHI 9333

SUMMARY: RAIL MINISTER MISHRA AUGUST 13 ANNOUNCED SETTLEMENT OF LOCOMEN'S STRIKE WHICH HAD DISRUPTED RAILWAY SYSTEM IN MOST PARTS OF INDIA SINCE AUGUST 1. GOI IN EFFECT GAVE AMNESTY TO ARRESTED AND DISCIPLINED STRIKERS, AND MINOR ECONOMIC CONCESSIONS. LOCO UNION AGREED TO VAGUE FORMULA FOR REPRESENTATION OF ITS MEMBERS WITHOUT FORMAL UNION RECOGNITION. MOSCOW-LINE CPI AND INDEPENDENT COMMUNIST CPM MP'S BOTH CONGRATULATED LOCOMEN, LABOR MINISTER RAGHUNATHA REDDY, AND RAIL MINISTER L.N. MISHRA ON SETTLEMENT. BUT IMPORTANT CONGRESS- MP'S, PRESS, AND LEADERSHIP OF THE TWO MAJOR FEDERATIONS (WHICH COOPERATED WITH GOI) NOW CONCERNED GOI ACTION WILL ENCOURAGE BREAKAWAY AND MULTIPLE UNIONISM AND GIVE CPI NEW LEVERAGE ON THE RAILWAYS. END SUMMARY.

1. RAILWAY MINISTER L.N. MISHRA INFORMED PARLIAMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 09462 142006Z

AUGUST 13 HE HAD REACHED AGREEMENT TO END STRIKE BEGUN

AUGUST 1 BY THE ALLMINDIA LOCO RUNNING STAFF ASSOCIATION (AILRSA).

2. GOVERNMENT IN EFFECT AGREED TO RELEASE ALL THOSE ARRESTED SINCE LAST MAY UNDER THE DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES (DIR) EXCEPT THOSE CHARGED WITH SABOTAGE AND VIOLENCE; RESTORE TO STATUS WORKERS "VICTIMIZED" BY TRANSFERS, PROMOTIONS AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES AND DROP CHARGES AGAINST OTHERS; CHARGE STRIKE TIME AS LEAVE RATHER THAN BREAK IN SERVICE; REDUCE MAXIMUM DUTY STRETCH FROM 14 TO 10 HOURS PER DAY (REQUIRING THE ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT OF POSSIBLY 15,000 TO 20,000); THE LABOR MINISTRY AND LOCO REPRESENTATIVES TO LOOK INTO REMAINING GRIEVANCES.

3. AILRSA LEADERSHIP IN PLACE OF OFFICIAL SEPARATE UNION RECOGNITION ACCEPTED UNDEFINED ARRANGEMENT FOR "A REPRESENTATIVE CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION" AND AGREED TO A THREE-YEAR MORATORIUM ON STRIKES ON "MATTERS DISCUSSED AND AGREED".

4. GOI ALSO AGREED TO ACCEPT IN PRINCIPLE REDUCTION IN HOURS OF WORK DUTY AT A STRETCH DEMANDED FOR THEIR MEMBERS BY THE TWO DOMINANT RECOGNIZED INDUSTRIAL RAIL FEDERATIONS-- THE CONGRESS-ORIENTED NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDIAN RAILWAYMEN (NFIR) AND THE SOCIALIST PARTY-ORIENTED ALL-INDIA RAILWAYMEN'S FEDERATION (AIRR).

5. RAILWAY TRAFFIC MAY NOT RETURN TO NORMAL FOR SEVERAL DAYS BECAUSE OF DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT AND ROADBEDS, AND DISLOCATION OF ROLLING STOCK THAT TOOK PLACE DURING STRIKE.

6. COMMENT: MOSCOW-LINE CPI AND INDEPENDENT COMMUNIST CPM MP'S CONGRATULATED LABOR MINISTER RAGHUNATHA REDDY, RAILWAY MINISTER L.N. MISHRA AND THE LOCOMEN ON SETTLEMENT OF THE STRIKE. BUT OTHERS, INCLUDING CONGRESS- MP'S, PRESS, NFIR AND AIRF LEADERS, (PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY) WERE SHARPLY CRITICAL OF GOI HANDLING OF BOTH THE MAY AND THE CURRENT LOCOMEN'S STRIKE.

7. NFIR AND AIRF LEADERS ARE CONCERNED GOI, BY MAKING CONCESSIONS UNDER PRESSURE TO A SECTIONAL GROUPING OF DRIVERS, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 09462 142006Z

GUARDS AND BRAKEMEN, WILL ENCOURAGE UNREST AMONG DISSIDENT ELEMENTS WITHIN THE TWO MAJOR FEDERATIONS WHOSE LEADERSHIP COOPERATED WITH THE GOI TO KEEP THE TRAINS RUNNING. LEADERS OF THE NFIR AND AIRF, WHICH HAD "POSTPONED" NATIONAL RAIL STRIKE SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 27 OVER MAJOR ECONOMIC DEMANDS, NOW SAY THEIR UNIONS LIKELY TO STRIKE IF GOI FAILS TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS.

8. WE ARE AUTHORITATIVELY INFORMED THAT THERE IS FEELING AMONG SOME GOI MINISTERS, WHO PROTESTED TO MRS. GANDHI, THAT "SYMPATHETIC" BEHAVIOR BY PRO-CPI LABOR MINISTER RAGHUNATHA REDDY FOR THE LOCOMEN CONTRIBUTED SUBSTANTIALLY TO LOCOMEN'S INTRANSIGENCE AND BUILD-UP OF CPI POSITION ON RAILWAYS. COMPLAINTS REPORTEDLY LED TO DECISION BY MRS. GANDHI, IN CONSONANCE WITH THE POSITIONS OF THE NFIR AND AIRF, FOR MISHRA NOT TO EXTEND SEPARATE RECOGNITION TO THE LOCO RUNNING STAFF UNION AND TO BREAK STRIKE WITH DRASTIC MEASURES IF MEN DID NOT RETURN TO WORK IN A FEW DAYS. (EARLY IN DISPUTE THREE PROMINENT CPI LEADERS SUCCESSFULLY ASSUMED ROLE AS INTERMEDIARIES BETWEEN LOCO UNION LEADERS AND A "CONFUSED" RAIL MINISTER MISHRA.) THIS WAS SIGNIFICANCE OF MISHRA'S REMARKS IN LOK SABHA ABOUT BEING GLAD OF LOCOMEN'S RESPONSE TO "SAGE ADVICE" OF PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT GIRI.
MOYNIHAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR STRIKES, RAILROADS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NEWDE09462
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MOYNIHAN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730839/aaaabchr.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NEW DELHI 9333
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <09-Jan-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOCOMEN'S STRIKE
TAGS: ELAB, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005